

# **The Historical Society of the United States Courts in the Eighth Circuit**

## **2004 Annual Report of the Western District of Missouri Branch of the Historical Society of the United States Courts in the Eighth Circuit**

The Historical Society for the Western District of Missouri currently maintains a balance of \$3982.69 in its account. These proceeds represent the balance of a \$25,000 grant that the Court en banc made to the Society to fund an architectural design project for a part interactive and part traditional museum to be established in a large ceremonial room on the second public floor of the Courthouse. The architecture firm was able to draw on the history of our court, *Federal Justice in Western Missouri*, previously published by the University of Missouri Press.

Several proposed architectural renderings have now been completed and the Society has formed two fund-raising committees to begin raising the \$350,000 - \$400,000 it will take to fund and maintain such a project. As previously noted, a “special gifts” committee will be headed up by two attorneys, Landon Rowland, the former president of Kansas City Southern and the Stilwell Corporation, and Judith Heeter, a partner at Shughart, Thomson & Kilroy, P.C., who works exclusively for the Major League Baseball Players Association. The “special gifts” committee will focus its efforts on foundations, the various bar associations and a handful of individuals.

A “lawyers committee,” chaired by Mark Foster, will include three attorneys who regularly practice before the Court: Charles German, Pat McLarney and Gary Robb. This committee will be charged with going to individual firms and seeking contributions or commitments over a four to five year period.

The Society has received a pledge of \$25,000 from one firm, payable over the next four years. The first \$6,250 will be donated before September 15, 2004 and will be used, in part, to prepare materials for a full-scale fundraising effort later in the fall.